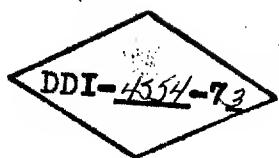


~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

file:
COINS



3 October 1973

25X1

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[Redacted]
Acting Chairman, IHC

SUBJECT

: Draft Letter on COINS from the DCI
to Admiral Anderson, 3 October 1973

1. I can concur in the draft letter if the following changes are made. Substitute the following for paragraph 1:

Responding to your letter of September 25th, I am initially approaching COINS with two steps in mind. Most immediately I want to satisfy myself that I have developed a sound basis for making the judgments that lie ahead. To do this, I am setting up a small task force of representatives from CIA, ASD(I), and the Community. This task force will be charged with making a basic assessment for me of the concepts that should underlie a national intelligence data base. It will also outline the objectives which such a data base should serve, the purposes to which it should be put, and the probable cost of establishing and maintaining such a system, including its cost effectiveness when weighed against alternative systems. I believe that such a study should be made both to refine my own goals and to give those charged with the development of systems for maintaining and exchanging intelligence data bases a meaningful yardstick against which they can measure future decisions.

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2. I am suggesting this rewording of this first paragraph because it reflects better my understanding of the session we had on COINS last Monday morning. Moreover, it was my understanding that this was not to be a two-man study, but that both Carl Duckett and I would nominate people to serve on it and that other members of the Community would be asked to participate. It is also my recollection that the task force should ideally be a blend of people with technical knowledge of computer applications and the substantive knowledge regarding such things as file content and user requirements.

3. In paragraph 3, there is a language problem. I presume it should start: "There are areas, however, . . ."

4. On the second page, I would like to delete the paragraph headed Analytical Content. This raises a subject on which there is a great deal of disagreement and, as far as I know, no decision that this program will be carried out. Moreover, it has implicit in it a decision to give consumer access to a COINS network. This is a critical decision on which we have to do a great deal of thinking. Finally, I have very serious reservations about the applicability and cost effectiveness of this kind of a computer application and think it premature to advertise.



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PAUL V. WALSH
Associate Deputy Director
for Intelligence

ADDI/PVWalsh/tb (3 Oct 73)

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MEMORANDUM FOR: DDL

[REDACTED] Attached memo has been drafted by Dr. [REDACTED] and me, to reply to Admiral Anderson's letter on COINS (also attached).

The approach taken in our draft is intentional, in that we understand the DCI does not desire at this time to respond directly to all the specifics of the PFIAB letter.

I am instructed to request your review and concurrence this afternoon. Thank you for your cooperation. [REDACTED]

Acting Chairman, IHC
(DATE)
3 October 1973

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

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